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WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE

President's Meeting with Hungarian Deputy
Prime Minister Szeker
May 4, 1976

The President is meeting this morning with Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Gyula Szeker (SECK-air).

Mr. Szeker was invited to visit the United States last fall by then-Secretary of Commerce Morton when he paid a visit to Hungary. Secretary of Commerce Richardson reaffirmed the invitation and is Mr. Szeker's host in Washington. The Deputy Prime Minister will be meeting with various US officials and businessmen during his visit. This morning's meeting was a brief courtesy call on the President.

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Q: Has the President met with Hungarian officials before?

A: Mr. Szeker is the first senior Hungarian official to meet with the President.

Q: What did the President and Szeker discuss?

A: This was a brief courtesy call. The conversation focused on the nature of the Deputy Prime Minister's visit.

Q: What is the primary purpose of his visit?

A: As I mentioned earlier, he is here at the invitation of the Secretary of Commerce. It is safe to assume that his talks in the United States include the subject of trade between the two countries. I think you should check with Commerce for more detailed information.

Q: Does Hungary have MFN?

A: No.

Q: Was the Crown of St. Stephen discussed?

A: No. This was as I say only a brief courtesy call arranged at the request of Commerce.

Cardinal Mindszenty's Death

Q: Mr. President, Cardinal Mindszenty died today. I was wondering if you had any comment in view of his years in our embassy at Budapest?

A: Cardinal Mindszenty was a man of extraordinary character and determination who lived a full and courageous life. I know I speak for many, many Americans in saying that we are deeply saddened by his death.